(c) NAFED has procured the following quantities of soyabean during last three years under PSS:—

Year	Qty. Purchased (in MTs)
1998-99	4,480
1999-2000	4,94,418
2000-2001	54,660

Fishermen's agitation against aquaculture

2119. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fishermen are agitating against aqua culture;

(b) if so, what are their other demands; and

(c) the steps taken to meet their genuine demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) At present, there is no on-going agitation against aquaculture. However, representations have been received from time to time, not against aquaculture in general, but against some of the activities of coastal aquaculture. Representations have been received, both for and against shrimp farming activities being carried out in coastal areas, with some sections insisting on an early enactment of legislation to regulate shrimp farming activities in coastal areas and others being opposed to the same.

(b) and (c) The other demands of fishermen include representation with regard to the Aquaculture Authority Bill, the setting up of a Committee to review implementation of recommendations of the Murari Committee Report on deep sea fishing, enhancement of kerosene quota for fishermen in coastal areas and enhancement of excise duty concession on HSD oil, inclusion of inland fishermen and fisher women in the saving-cum-relief scheme, ban on monsoon fishing, judicial inquiry with regard to the death of Captain Pratap Save, impact on import of fish into the country and early release of fishermen kept in the custody of neighbouring countries.

The action taken by the Government on the above demands are:

The suggestions for allowing only such of the technologies as permitted by the Supreme Court has already been considered for incorporation and further processing. The recommendations of the Murari Committee are already being implemented. Regarding the request of enhanced kerosene quota, the Ministry of Petroleum has informed that kerosene is released on a monthly basis to all the States against an annual quota fixed for each State. Separate allocation for fisheries purpose is to be made by the concerned States. Regarding diesel concession, a study has been taken up and the issue be considered while formulating schemes for X Plan. Inland fishermen are already covered under the saving-cum-relief scheme since June, 2000. Since this is a programme implemented with cost sharing between Centre, State and beneficiary, the willingness of State Governments have been requested for inclusion of women to which only three States have communicated their consent. The Government have already issued necessary orders banning monsoon fishing by trawlers during specified period in both east and west coast. Government of Gujarat has already ordered a judicial inquiry into the death of Captain Pratap Save. Ministry of Agriculture is committed to ensure that there is no surge in imports that will affect the interests of fishermen. Government is in a position to impose higher import duty. Appropriate actions have already been taken for the expeditious release of fishermen kept in custody.

Increasing the agricultural production

2120. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to increase agricultural production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding the fall in agricultural production; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF